

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08580 100859Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----074911 100902Z /10
Z 100830Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 235

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8580

EXDIS

PASS CAMP DAVID

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IR, JO, SA, US
SUBJ: SITUATION IN IRAN--MEETING WITH SHAH

REF: STATE 229155

1. PLEASE INFORM PRESIDENT THAT SHAH WILL BE EXPECTING HIS TELEPHONE CALL AT 1600 TEHRAN TIME WHICH IS 0800 WASHINGTON TIME. I HAVE PASSED ORAL MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL AND HAD OVER AN HOUR AUDIENCE WITH SHAH SUNDAY MORNING.

2. I FOULD HIM TIRED AND DISTURBED BUT WITH CONSIDERABLY GREATER SPIRIT THAN AT MY LAST AUDIENCE. HE REAFFIRMED HIS INTENTION TO CONTINUE LIBERALIZATION PROCESS AND SPOKE OF SEVERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO MAJLES IN THAT CONTEXT. HE ALSO SPOKE OF A CRACKDOWN ON CORRUPTION. HE RECOGNIZED THAT MARTIAL LAW COULD NOT BE A SOLUTION, BUT ONLY AN INTERIM MEASURE TO RESTORE ORDER BEFORE PROCEEDING TO FREE ELECTIONS.

3. HE BELIEVES THAT SOVIET AGITATORS HAVE HAD A HAND IN RECENT EVENTS AND THAT PURPOSE OF DEMONSTRATORS ON
SECRET

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 08580 100859Z

FRIDAY HAD BEEN TO OCCUPY THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING AND THE CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS AT THE POST AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING. WHEN HE BEGAN TO REFER TO REPORTS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT, I INTERRUPTED HIM TO GIVE HIM A RATHER SHARP LECTURE ON U.S. POLICY AND INTEGRITY. HE TOOK HIS IN GOOD GRACE AND SAID HE ACCEPTED MY ASSURANCES.

4. HE THEN INDICATED THAT HE FELT THE NEED FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF U.S. SUPPORT IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID HE WOULD INDICATE TO THE PRESIDENT THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD "CLEAR THE AIR HERE AND IN THE REGION."

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ALERT THE PRESIDENT, PRIOR TO HIS 0800 TELEPHONE CALL, THAT THE SHAH WILL BE SEEKING FROM HIM SOME UNDERTAKING TO MAKE A PUBLIC INDICATION OF U.S. SUPPORT, SO THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN CONSIDER HOW TO HANDLE THIS. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO HAVE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCE THAT TELEPHONE CALL WAS MADE. SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT COULD ALSO BE VEHICLE FOR CONVEYING SHAH'S ASSURANCES (WHICH HE WILL PRESUMABLE MAKE TO PRESIDENT) CONCERNING CONTINUED DRIVE FOR LIBERALIZATION.
SULLIVAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

SECRET

NNN

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